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Cornelius Nepos. Selected lives edited, with introduction, notes, exercises, and vocabulary, by JOHN EDMUND BARSS, M.A., Master in the Hotchkiss School. The Macmillan Company, New York. Price, 40 cents.

THIS little book contains the lives of Miltiades, Themistocles, Aristides, Lysander, Alcibiades, Epaminondas, and Hannibal. The introductions are brief,—two pages upon *Cornelius Nepos*, one page devoted to a chronological table of eighteen dates, and a historical introduction of six pages. There are three maps,—one of Greece, one of Athens and its harbors, and one showing the route of Hannibal. The text, provided with short topical outlines in English, covers about sixty-five pages; the notes cover about fifty pages, and the exercises in Latin composition, based upon the text, about twenty-two pages. There are word groups, similar to those in the *School Classics* of Ginn & Co., covering fourteen pages. The general vocabulary covers about fifty pages. A distinguishing feature of the edition is its simplicity and conciseness. The brief introductions contain all that the pupil will use, and the teacher should have other sources of information at hand. The seven lives chosen deal with the seven men in Nepos' list most potent in shaping history. The maps are uncolored, and contain only the most important places and those mentioned in the text. The notes are direct, with no display of superfluous erudition. This feature in a school book is strongly to be commended. Too often our elementary books are encumbered by voluminous matter worse than useless to the beginner. There are references in the notes to *Bennett's Grammar*, as well as to those of Allen and Greenough, Gildersleeve and Harkness.

The small price of the volume (40 cents) puts it within the reach of many teachers who find it hard to procure for their classes reading supplementary to the usual Cæsar, Cicero, and Virgil.

A desirable feature also is the attention given to idiomatic English in translation. In this the notes and exercises for composition reënforce each other, the suggestions of the notes being applied—often more than once—in the exercises. It is, however, an obvious exaggeration to say (as is done on p. 119) that “the whole secret of translation is to find the idioms of one language which correspond to those in another.” Another “secret” which is not a secret is that accurate translation demands precise knowledge of the derivative and grammatical meaning of words. In this book, as in others which emphasize

idiomatic English, there is some tendency to forget this. For instance, *humilea atque ob honestāte remōta* is more truthfully rendered "low and far from respectable," than "vulgar and in bad taste." In giving an idiomatic rendering remote from the close meaning of the words, the beginner should be aided by somewhat full comment showing how the free meaning is developed. Mr. Barss gives admirable examples of such notes in those upon *mūnut* and *dedit verba* on p. 111. This observation reminds me that the general vocabulary is hardly consistent with the word groups as to emphasizing close derivative meanings; see, e. g., *abstinentia*, *adhibeō*, *affābilis*, *coniūrātiō*, *ēscendō*, *monumentum*.

Some of the notes are so sensible or necessary as to deserve special mention, e. g., those on *honestā*, p. 70; *rārae*, p. 77; *obtumerat, nōbile, quī cum*, parentibus, p. 80; *fūtūrum ut* —, p. 94; *absentī*, p. 101; *quibus*, p. 104; *scelere admissō*, p. 106; *cēterōs*, p. 109. The notes would be more usable if the name of the life commented upon had been carried at the top of the right-hand page as in the text.

A few mistakes have been noted: *Ticinium* for *Ticinum* on p. ix of the introductory matter; the last sentence on the next page is awkward; the statement on p. xiv, that Greece in 479 was "free from dread of Eastern tyranny," is too strong; it was such a dread that cemented the confederacy of Delos in 476. The statement about the Canaanites on p. xvi is misleading; the Phœnicians were Canaanites, but all Canaanites were not Phœnicians. On p. 71, at Greece for in Greece; top of p. 73, "dat. after *præ* in composition" for dat. after a verb compounded with *præ*; p. 75, "*abesset*"; the introductory *dum* here does not mean *until* but *while, so long as*, and the direct form is not *dum absim*, but *dum aberō*; for *dum* in this sense, with a future, see the new Gildersleeve, 569, third example; p. 96, *ōrātiōnis* for *ōratiōnis*; p. 104, *eruditus est* for *eruditus sit*; *mercēs*, found in the preface, is not in the vocabulary.

I. B. BURGESS

THE MORGAN PARK ACADEMY

Art and Humanity in Homer. By WILLIAM CRANSTON LAWTON
Macmillan & Co. 75 cents.

THIS inviting little book was written for "earnest men and women" who are beginning the study of Homer in English, and desire a simple and readable introduction. Six of the seven essays which the volume